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Rev. 04/01

PATENTS
Docket No. FAN-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Gary S. Fanton et al.

Application No.: 10/782,489 Confirmation No.: 5632

Filed : February 18, 2004

For : APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR CLEARING
OBSTRUCTIONS FROM SURGICAL CUTTING
INSTRUMENTS

Group Art Unit : 3763

Mail Stop: Amendment
Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement in the above-identified application. This Statement is submitted:

[] within three months of the application filing date;

[X] more than three months from the application filing date but before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, submission of this Statement requires no fee. However, if for any reason a fee is due, the Director is hereby authorized to

charge payment of any fees required in connection with this
Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account
No. 06-1075. A duplicate copy of this letter is
transmitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas A. Oguss
Registration No. 48,469
Agent for Applicants

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Customer No. 1473
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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,
P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria,
VA 22313-1450 on:

7-28-04

Date of Deposit

Lorraine Coke

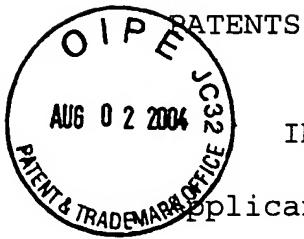
Name of Person Signing

Lorraine Coke

Signature of Person Signing

7-28-04

Date of Signature



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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98,
applicants hereby make the following documents of record in
the above identified application:*

U.S. Patents

6,669,685	12/2003	Rizoiu et al.
6,379,350	04/2002	Sharkey et al.
5,782,795	07/1998	Bays
5,730,752	03/1998	Alden et al.
5,437,630	08/1995	Daniel et al.
5,405,348	04/1995	Anspach, Jr. et al.
5,007,917	04/1991	Evans

* Applicants reserve the right to challenge the status
of any of the cited documents as prior art.

4,811,734	03/1989	McGurk-Burleson et al.
4,649,919	03/1987	Thimsen et al.
4,368,734	01/1983	Banko
3,945,375	03/1976	Banko
3,812,855	05/1974	Banko

Pursuant to the PTO's waiver of the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a) (2) (i), 1276 OG 55, applicants have not submitted copies of the cited U.S. patent documents, which are listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449.

It is respectfully requested that these documents be (1) fully considered by the Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application; and (2) printed on any patent that may issue on this application. Applicants request that a copy of Form PTO-1449, as considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned with the next communication.

An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Agent for Applicants

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Lorraine Coke

Name of Person Signing

Lorraine Coke

Signature of Person Signing

7-28-04

Date of Signature

 OPPE AUG 02 2004 JCS PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE WASH. D.C.	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. FAN-1	SERIAL NO. 10/782,489
	INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		APPLICANT Gary S. Fanton et al.	
			FILING DATE February 18, 2004	GROUP 3763

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6,669,685	12/2003	Rizoiu et al.			
	6,379,350	04/2002	Sharkey et al.			
	5,782,795	07/1998	Bays			
	5,730,752	03/1998	Alden et al.			
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	3,945,375	03/1976	Banko			
	3,812,855	05/1974	Banko			FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER INITIALS	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.